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SEPTEMBER SQUALL

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SEE PAGE 2

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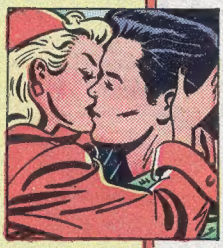

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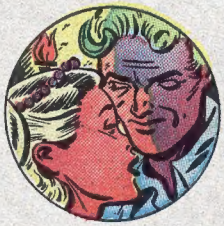

THE BLACK LILY /// SWORDSPLAY, FIERY ROMANCE, AND COURT INTRIGUE AGAINST A COLORFUL ELIZABETHAN BACKGROUND. A FABULOUS ADVENTURESS MEETS HER MATCH IN A SWASHBUCKLING PRIVATEER. PAGE 26

ADVENTURES IN ROMANCE. Volume 1. Number 1. November 1949. Published bi-monthly by St. John Publishing Company, 545 Fifth Ave., New York 17, New York. Telephone MU 7-6823.

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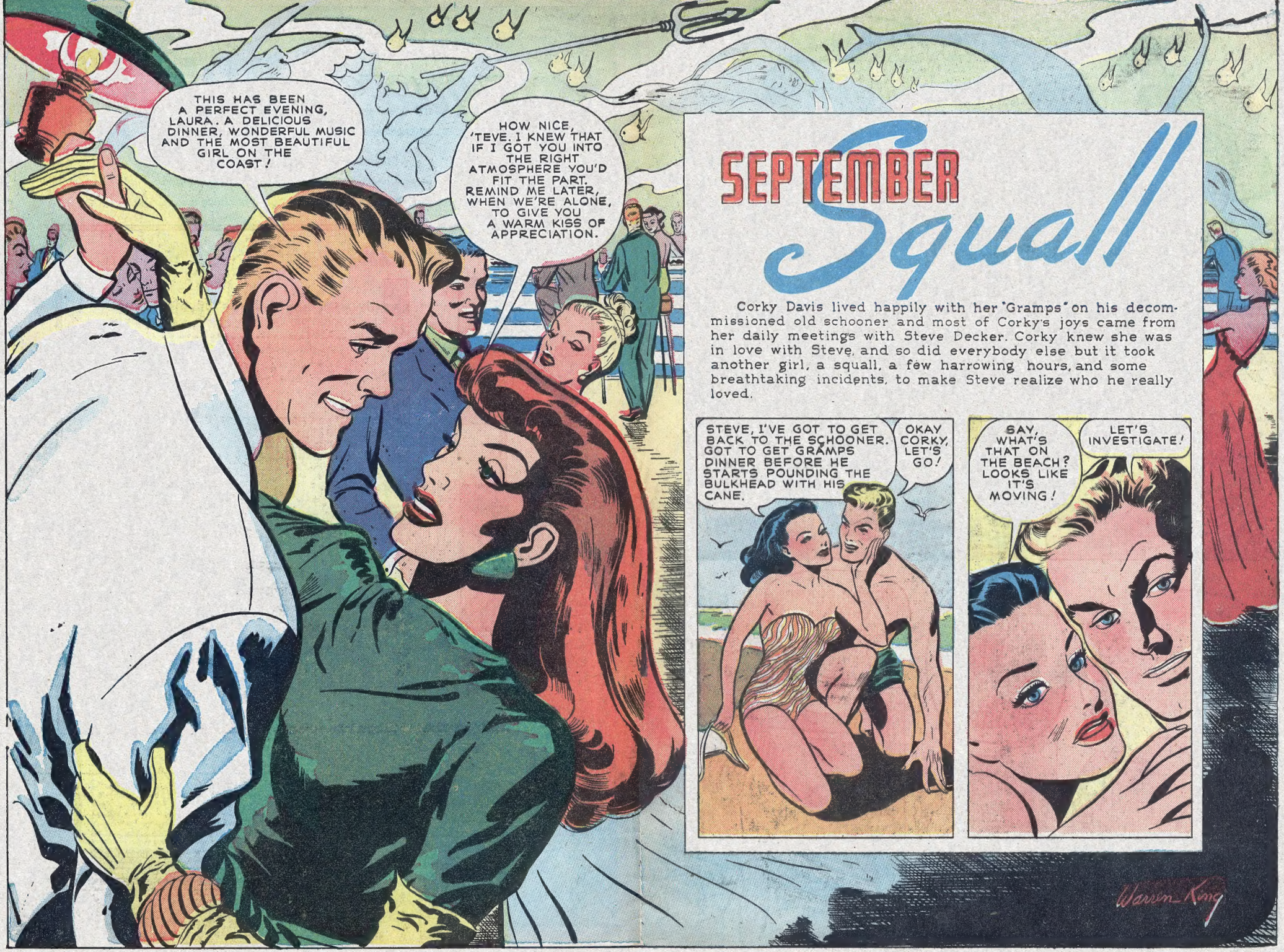
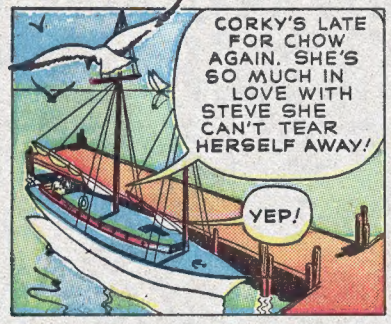
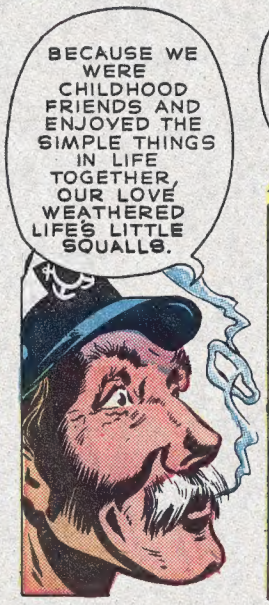
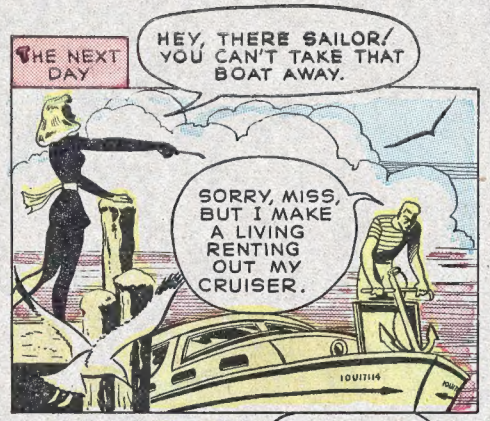
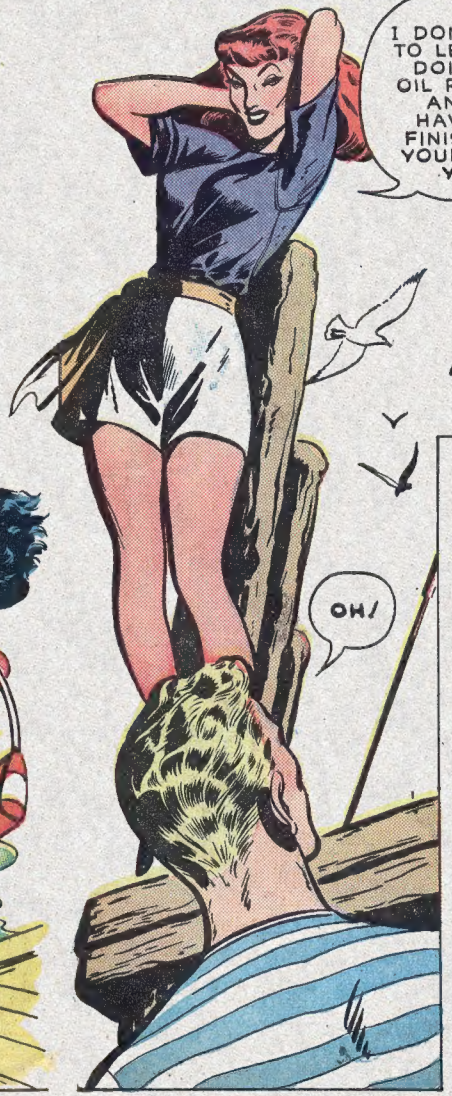

THIS HAS BEEN A PERFECT EVENING, LAURA. A DELICIOUS DINNER, WONDERFUL MUSIC AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL ON THE COAST!
HOW NICE, 'TEVE. I KNEW THAT IF I GOT YOU INTO THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE YOU'D FIT THE PART. REMIND ME LATER, WHEN WE'RE ALONE, TO GIVE YOU A WARM KISS OF APPRECIATION.
SEPTEMBER Squall
Corky Davis lived happily with her "Gramps" on his decommissioned old schooner and most of Corky's joys came from her daily meetings with Steve Decker. Corky knew she was in love with Steve, and so did everybody else but it took another girl, a squall, a few harrowing hours, and some breathtaking incidents, to make Steve realize who he really loved.
STEVE, I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE SCHOONER. GOT TO GET GRAMPS DINNER BEFORE HE STARTS POUNDING THE BULKHEAD WITH HIS CANE.
OKAY CORKY, LET'S GO!
SAY, WHAT'S THAT ON THE BEACH? LOOKS LIKE IT'S MOVING!
LET'S INVESTIGATE!
Warren King

WHILE ON THE SCHOONER, GRAMPS IS PLAYING CHESS WITH HIS OLD FRIEND "QUIET" CHUCK.

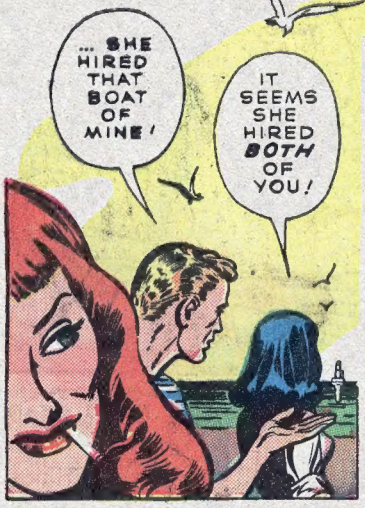




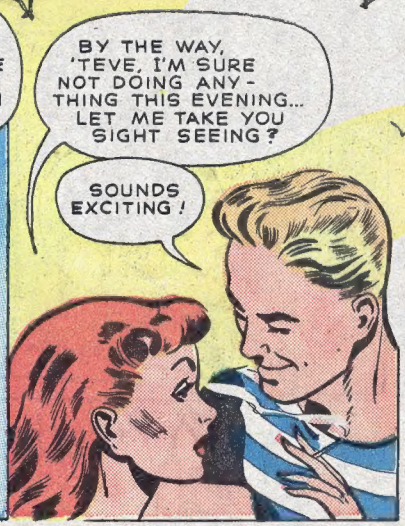




MEANWHILE

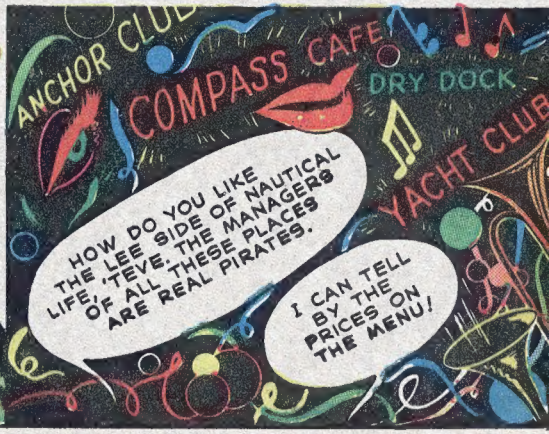

... SHE HIRED THAT BOAT OF MINE!
IT SEEMS SHE HIRED BOTH OF YOU!

NOW WHY DID I FEEL I HAD TO MAKE ANY EXPLANATION TO HER?
NONE THAT I COULD SEE, 'TEVE!


BY THE WAY, 'TEVE, I'M SURE NOT DOING ANYTHING THIS EVENING... LET ME TAKE YOU SIGHT SEEING?
SOUNDS EXCITING!

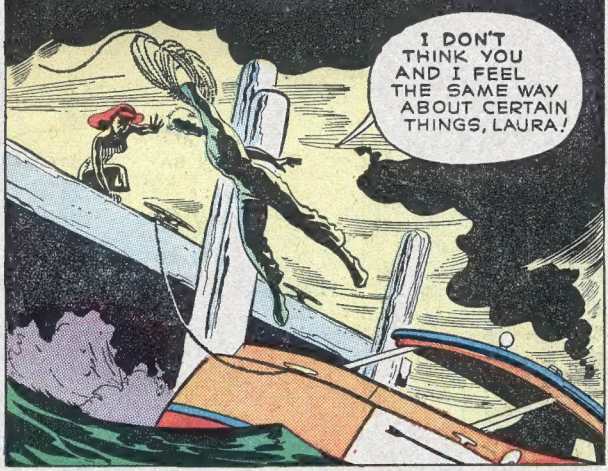
THAT NIGHT AT THE COASTLINE COVE...
STRANGE BUT I'VE LIVED AROUND HERE FOR YEARS AND I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE.
THAT'S USUALLY THE CASE, DARLING!

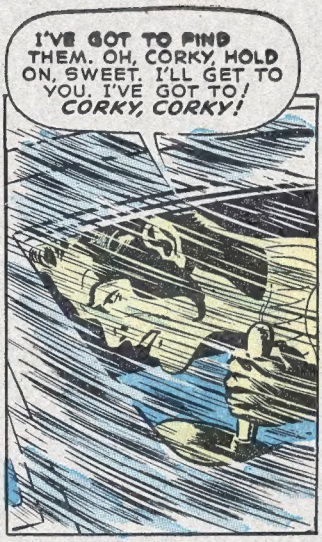
YOU JUST DON'T APPRECIATE THE THINGS AROUND YOU, 'TEVE, LET'S GO NOW. THERE'S MORE I WANT TO SHOW YOU!
O.K.! I FEEL A LITTLE DAZZLED BY ALL THIS!


ANCHOR CLUB
COMPASS CAFE
DRY DOCK
YACHT CLUB
HOW DO YOU LIKE THE LEE SIDE OF NAUTICAL LIFE, 'TEVE. THE MANAGERS OF ALL THESE PLACES ARE REAL PIRATES.
I CAN TELL BY THE PRICES ON THE MENU!

'TEVE, WE'RE ALL ALONE NOW KISS ME!
?
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN LOVE, 'TEVE?
OH, SURE, I'M WITH HER EVERY DAY!
WHO, THAT LITTLE BRUNETTE CORKY?
CORKY? OF COURSE NOT, I MEAN MY BOAT!
NOW I WONDER WHAT MADE HER THINK OF CORKY.
DON'T LOOK SO SERIOUS! FORGET YOUR BOAT FOR AWHILE AND GIVE ME ANOTHER GOOD-NIGHT KISS!
THE NEXT MORNING...
STEVE. OH STEVE, GRAMPS WANTS TO SEE YOU. COME ABOARD.
STEVE, THE BAROMETER'S DROPPING, BETTER SECURE THAT NEW LINE FOR ME!
SURE, GRAMPS, I'LL GET IT RIGHT AWAY!
SEE YOU LATER, GRAMPS!
HELLO, THERE - CAN I GIVE YOU A LIFT, 'TEVE?

YOU SURE CAN LAURA. TAKE ME TO THE MARINERS' SUPPLY STORE!
HOP IN 'TEVE, DARLING. HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I TAKE A LITTLE DETOUR!
AM I PROCEEDING ON THIS DETOUR OF YOURS AT MY OWN RISK?
YOU BET, DEAR! MIND IF I STOP HERE AWHILE. I JUST LOVE THIS VIEW.
OH, STEVE, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
SAY, IT'S GETTING LATE. I'VE GOT TO GET GRAMPS' LINE! LET'S GO!
THIS IS IT, LAURA. I HOPE HE'S STILL OPEN.
DON'T BE LONG, HONEY!
MARINERS BOAT SUPPLIES
LOOK AT THAT SQUALL BLOWING UP. I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN BACK SOONER!
WHAT'S THE HURRY 'TEVE. DON'T YOU ENJOY MY KISSES?
STEVE, STEVE, THE SQUALL BROKE GRAMPS' SCHOONER LOOSE FROM ITS MOORING.
WHAT!!! THEN I'M TOO LATE WITH HIS LINE... I'M GOING AFTER THEM!
STEVE, PLEASE!
STEVE, YOU'RE NOT GOING AFTER THEM! YOU'D BE A FOOL TO GO OUT THERE!
DON'T TRY TO STOP ME LAURA! I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO!

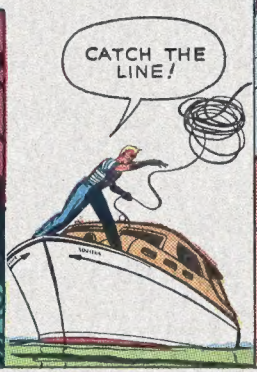


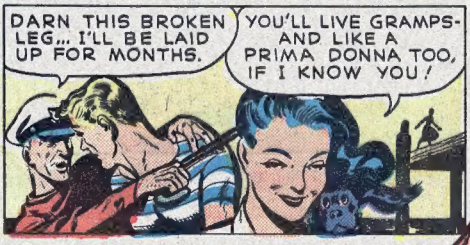


JUST THEN THE TURBULENT SEA SEEMS TO PART AND STEVE SEES GRAMPS SCHOONER TOSSING ON THE RAGING WAVES.

CORKY MANAGES AT THE HELM, FOLLOWING GRAMPS DIRECTIONS FOR THE NEXT GRUELLING HOUR, WAITING FOR THE STORM TO ABATE.

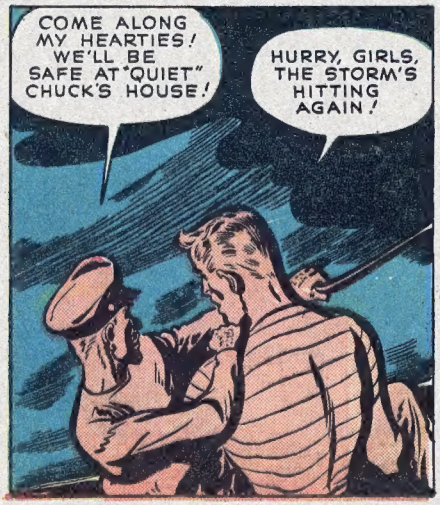
SUDDENLY THE SQUALL PASSES AND THE SEA BECOMES OMINOUSLY CALM.



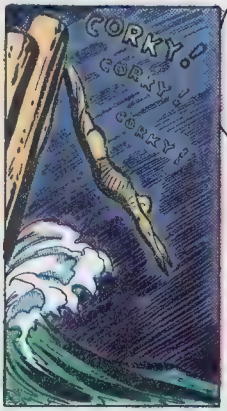


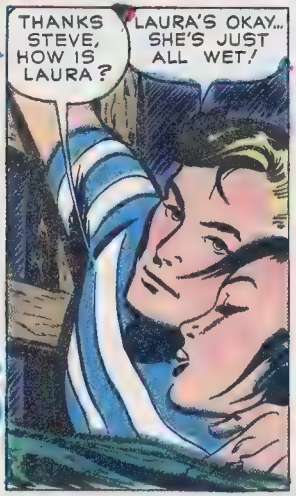
FOLLOWING FLOTSAM AND CORKY, STEVE AND GRAMPS ARE UNAWARE OF LAURA'S UNTIMELY ACT...

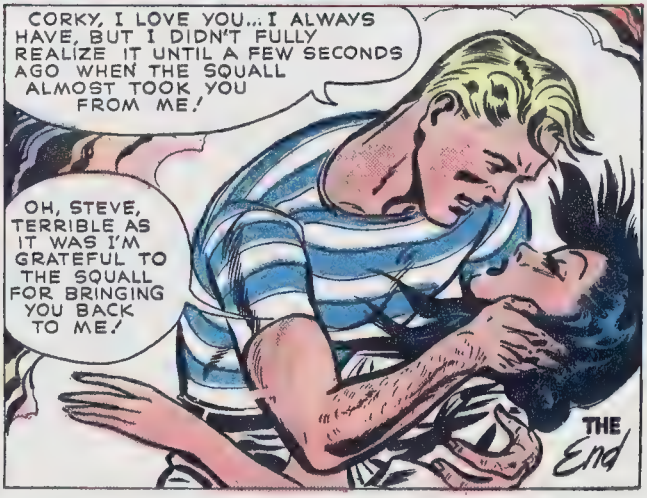
ONLY CORKY SEES LAURA'S PLUNGE...



IN HELPING LAURA, STEVE IS SUDDENLY AWARE OF CORKY'S ABSENCE...



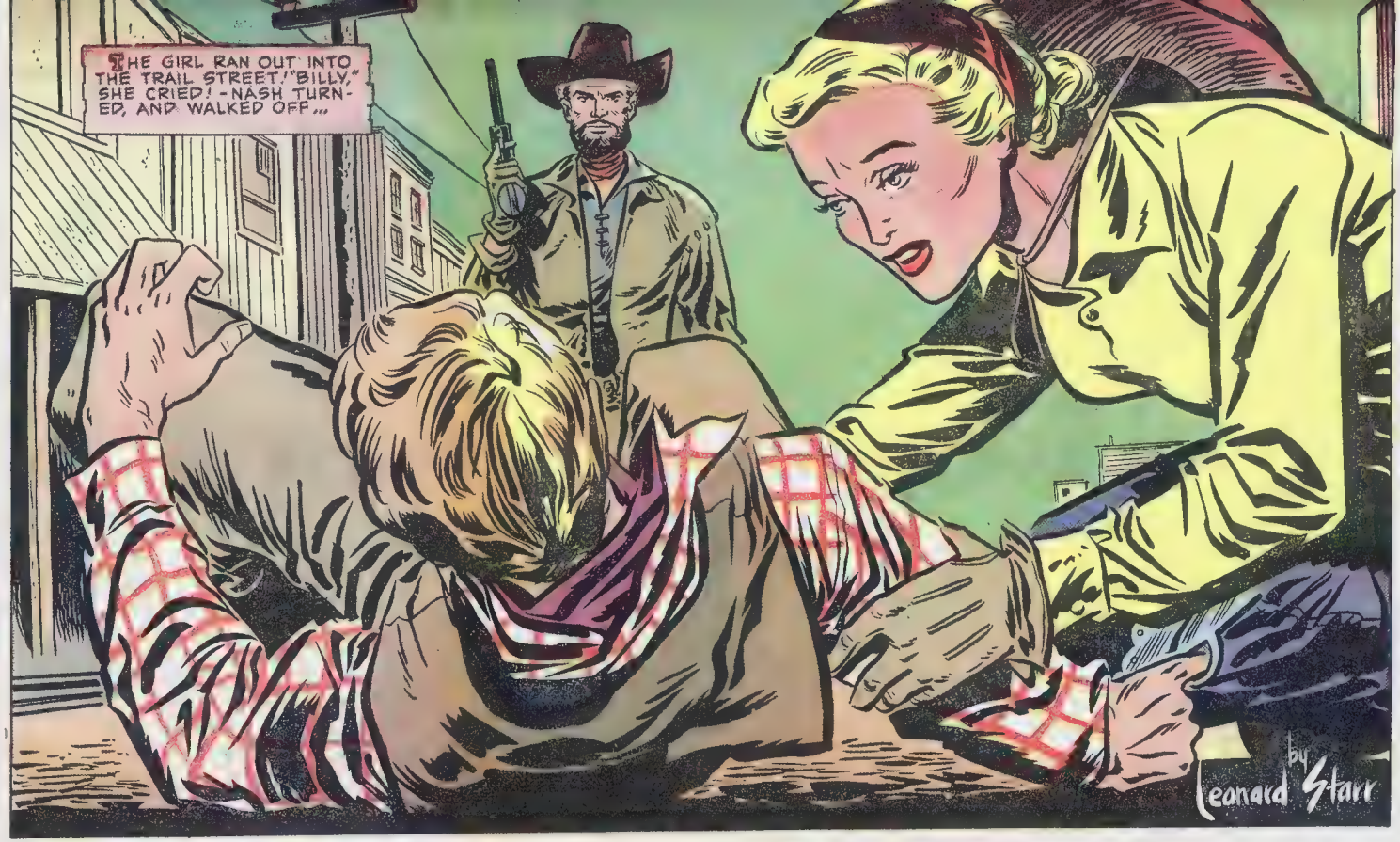


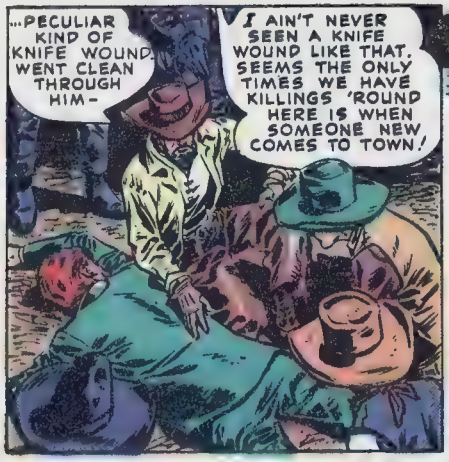


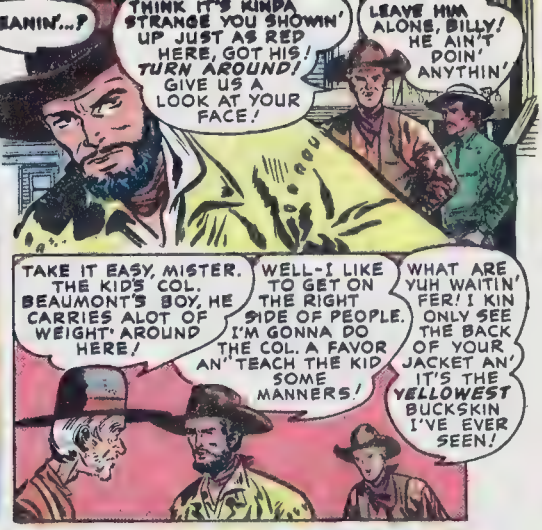
STOPGAP

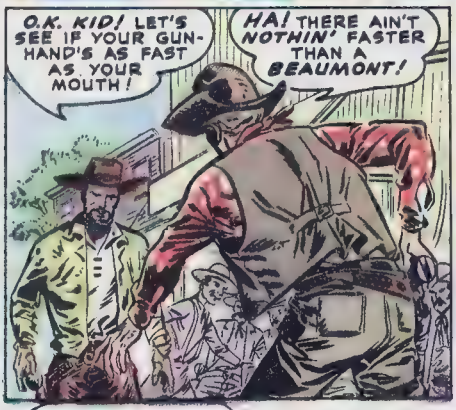
THE SAGA OF COBY NASH

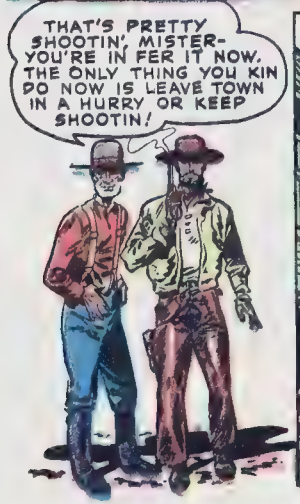
WHEN COBY NASH, RODE INTO STOPGAP IN ANSWER TO RED DURKEE'S LETTER HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT RED WASN'T GOING TO BE IN ANY CONDITION TO MEET HIM, FOR AT THAT VERY MOMENT...



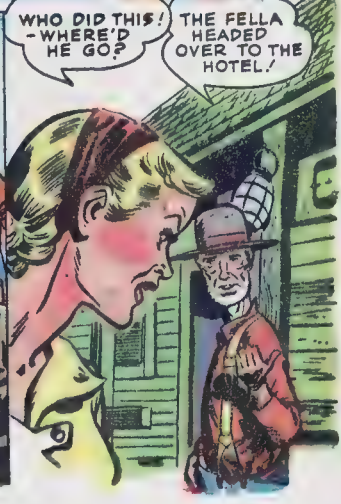

...PECULIAR KIND OF KNIFE WOUND. WENT CLEAN THROUGH HIM-
I AIN'T NEVER SEEN A KNIFE WOUND LIKE THAT. SEEMS THE ONLY TIMES WE HAVE KILLINGS 'ROUND HERE IS WHEN SOMEONE NEW COMES TO TOWN!

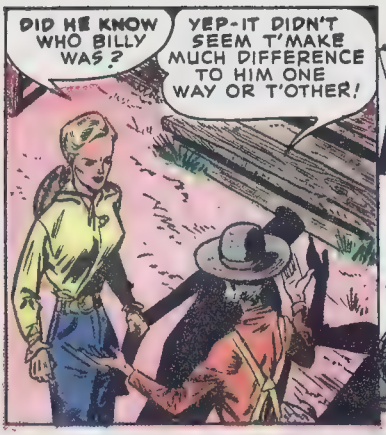

MEANIN'...?
THINK IT'S KINDA STRANGE YOU SHOWIN' UP JUST AS RED HERE, GOT HIS! TURN AROUND! GIVE US A LOOK AT YOUR FACE!
LEAVE HIM ALONE, BILLY! HE AIN'T DOIN' ANYTHIN'
TAKE IT EASY, MISTER. THE KID'S COL. BEAUMONT'S BOY, HE CARRIES ALOT OF WEIGHT AROUND HERE!
WELL-I LIKE TO GET ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF PEOPLE. I'M GONNA DO THE COL. A FAVOR AN' TEACH THE KID SOME MANNERS!
WHAT ARE YUH WAITIN' FER! I KIN ONLY SEE THE BACK OF YOUR JACKET AN' IT'S THE YELLOWEST BUCKSKIN I'VE EVER SEEN!


O.K. KID! LET'S SEE IF YOUR GUN-HAND'S AS FAST AS YOUR MOUTH!
HA! THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' FASTER THAN A BEAUMONT!


THAT'S PRETTY SHOOTIN', MISTER- YOU'RE IN FER IT NOW. THE ONLY THING YOU KIN DO NOW IS LEAVE TOWN IN A HURRY OR KEEP SHOOTIN!

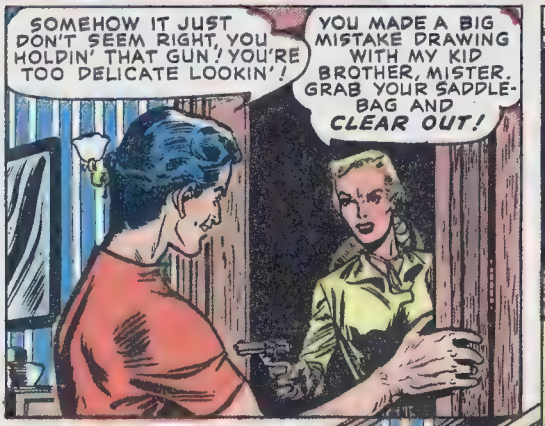
WHAT HAPPENED! BILLY!
HE'S ONLY BEEN WINGED, TRACEY!


WHO DID THIS! -WHERE'D HE GO?
THE FELLA HEADED OVER TO THE HOTEL!


DID HE KNOW WHO BILLY WAS?
YEP-IT DIDN'T SEEM T'MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE TO HIM ONE WAY OR T'OTHER!

COME IN!
KNOCK KNOCK

REACH!

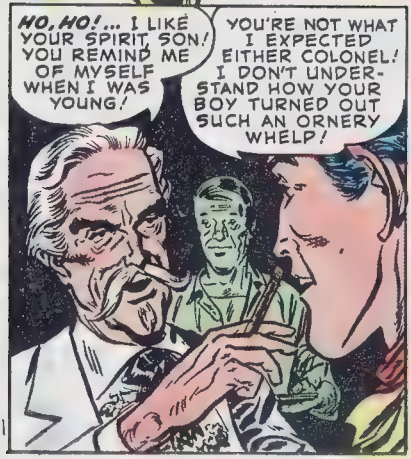

SOMEHOW IT JUST DON'T SEEM RIGHT, YOU HOLDIN' THAT GUN! YOU'RE TOO DELICATE LOOKIN'!
YOU MADE A BIG MISTAKE DRAWING WITH MY KID BROTHER, MISTER. GRAB YOUR SADDLE-BAG AND CLEAR OUT!

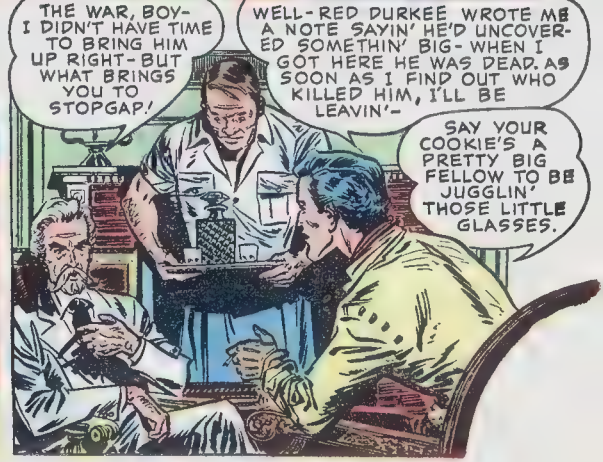
WHAT KIND OF CRAZY TOWN IS THIS? I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE AN HOUR AND EVERYONE WANT'S ME TO GIT! I'VE HAD A LONG AND DUSTY TREK, SO IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

WHY YOU...!
SLAM
BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

WHEW!

THAT EVENING, AS CODY NASH LEAVES THE HOTEL...





YES- TINY'S POWERFUL AS A BULL. WE WERE THROUGH THE MISSOURI CAMPAIGNS TOGETHER! HE'S DEVOTED TO ME!
...BUT A PARTING BIT OF ADVICE. FORGET YOUR FRIEND'S DEATH. COW-HANDS ARE ALWAYS DISCOVERING FANTASTIC THINGS, AND AS FOR KILLINGS- I'M AFRAID THEY'RE FAIRLY COMMON IN STOPGAP!
THANKS, COLONEL- BUT I KNOW THAT RED WOULD RATHER WRASSLE A GRIZZLY, THAN SIT DOWN AN' WRITE - SO IF HE WROTE ME A LETTER IT MUST'VE BEEN IMPORTANT. ...I'LL JUST STICK AROUND AWHILE!
...THAT WASN'T AS BAD AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU! YOU GOT OFF PRETTY EASY INSIDE, BUT TAKE THIS FROM ME, AND GET IT STRAIGHT! I WANT YOU OUT OF STOPGAP BY TOMORROW!
OH, FOR... I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS...
I MEAN WHAT I SAY! REFUSE, AND I'LL SHOOT YOU ON THE SPOT!
THEN GO AHEAD! ...SHOOT!
I... I...
THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE MEANT FOR!
BAH! YOU WEREN'T MEANT TO GO AROUND AIMING GUNS AT PEOPLE...

THAT DEEPENED DAY BY DAY...

SAY BILLY-I HEAR THIS COBY NASH HAS BEEN SEEIN' YOUR PRETTY SISTER REGULAR!

YEAH! ALL THESE SADDLE-TRAMPS ARE ALIKE! GET SOMEWHERE FAST-MARRY THE BOSS' DAUGHTER!

WAS THAT FOR MY BENEFIT BILLY?

YOU FEEL PRETTY SAFE, BUT KEEP RIDIN' ME AND I'LL FORGET HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOUR SISTER AND HOW YOUNG YOU ARE AND JUST REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE JUST PLAIN CUSSED!

ANHH!

HELLO, TRACEY!

WHAT IS IT, COBY? HAS BILLY BEEN TAUNTING YOU AGAIN? OH, PLEASE-YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO GO AWAY!

YOU'RE DRIVING ME LOCO, TRACEY! I KNOW YOU'RE AS MUCH IN LOVE WITH ME AS I AM WITH YOU- AND YOU'RE ALWAYS AFTER ME TO BLOW TOWN? IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE TRYING TO PROTECT YOUR BROTHER? DID HE KILL RED?

COBY...DARLING-I CAN'T EXPLAIN!

ALL RIGHT SWEETHEART-I WON'T PRESS YOU!

IT'S GETTING DARK-COME INTO THE KITCHEN AND I'LL MAKE YOU SOME COFFEE!

AHHH! THIS IS COFFEE! SAY THIS KITCHEN IS REALLY WELL EQUIPED... TINY HAS EVERYTHING AT HIS FINGERTIPS...

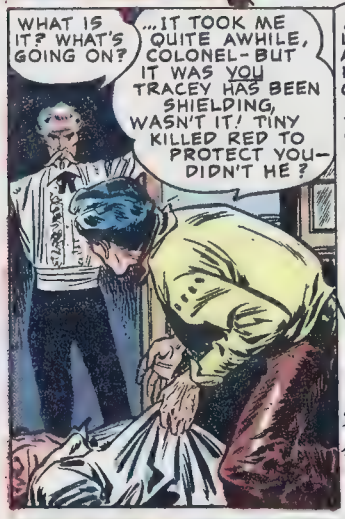
... I'LL BET ONE OF THOSE KNIVES COULD HAVE DONE THE JOB ON RED!

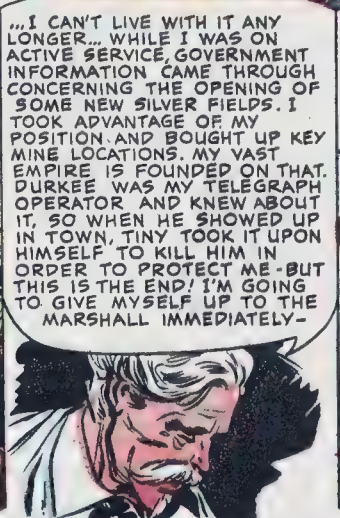
...HEARING COBY'S CASUAL BANTER, TINY'S SLOW MIND DOESN'T STOP TO REASON! THINKING NASH HAS HIT UPON THE SOLUTION HE CHARGES INTO KITCHEN AND REACHES FOR A CLEAVER...

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT NASH!

TINY! ... IT WAS YOU!

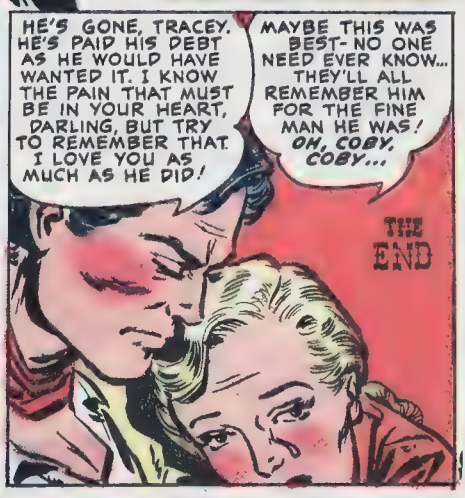
AGHHH!
COBY! TINY! STOP!


WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
...IT TOOK ME QUITE AWHILE, COLONEL- BUT IT WAS YOU TRACEY HAS BEEN SHIELDING, WASN'T IT! TINY KILLED RED TO PROTECT YOU- DIDN'T HE?


...I CAN'T LIVE WITH IT ANY LONGER... WHILE I WAS ON ACTIVE SERVICE, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION CAME THROUGH CONCERNING THE OPENING OF SOME NEW SILVER FIELDS. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY POSITION AND BOUGHT UP KEY MINE LOCATIONS. MY VAST EMPIRE IS FOUNDED ON THAT. DURKEE WAS MY TELEGRAPH OPERATOR AND KNEW ABOUT IT, SO WHEN HE SHOWED UP IN TOWN, TINY TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO KILL HIM IN ORDER TO PROTECT ME - BUT THIS IS THE END! I'M GOING TO GIVE MYSELF UP TO THE MARSHALL IMMEDIATELY-

COBY! YOU CAN'T LET HIM- THAT WAS THE ONLY DISHONORABLE THING HE'S DONE! HE'S TOO FINE! YOU MUST STOP HIM!
NO ONE CAN STOP A MAN LIKE THAT FROM DOING WHAT HE HAS TO DO... TRACEY- COME BACK!

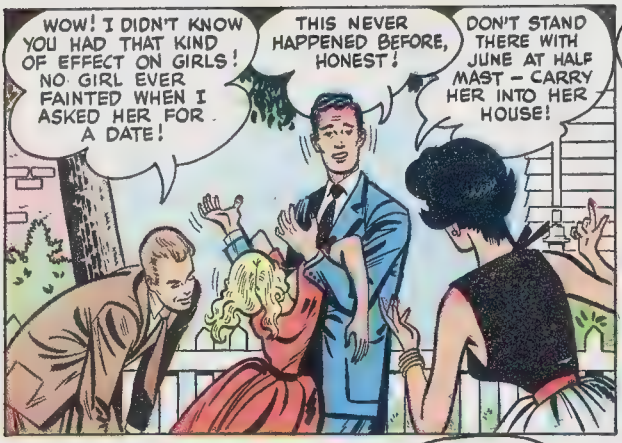
FATHER!
HIS HORSE FELL!


HE'S GONE, TRACEY. HE'S PAID HIS DEBT AS HE WOULD HAVE WANTED IT. I KNOW THE PAIN THAT MUST BE IN YOUR HEART, DARLING, BUT TRY TO REMEMBER THAT. I LOVE YOU AS MUCH AS HE DID!
MAYBE THIS WAS BEST- NO ONE NEED EVER KNOW... THEY'LL ALL REMEMBER HIM FOR THE FINE MAN HE WAS! OH, COBY, COBY...
THE END

heels over head in LOVE

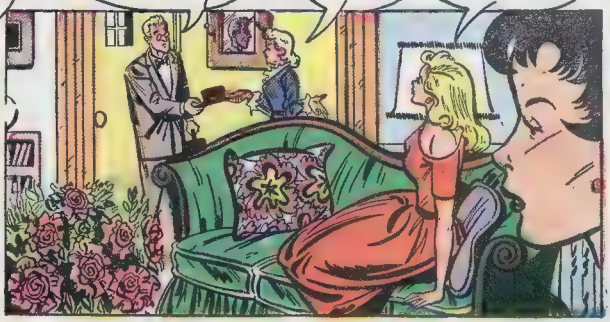
IT WAS JUST THE END OF SUMMER. THAT MEANT SCHOOL TO SOME, FOOTBALL TO OTHERS AND YET FOR THE COUPLE IN THIS STORY IT ALSO BROUGHT A BELATED LOVE... THAT SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED IN EARLY SPRING...

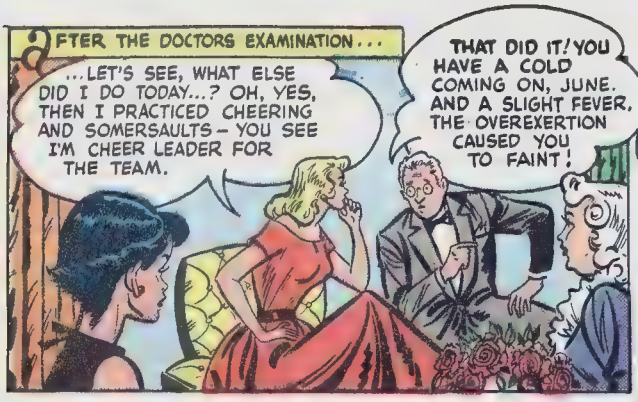
by FRANK BOLLE



ALONG THE WAY TO THE FIELD...

MEANWHILE DOCTOR PEARSON ARRIVES...

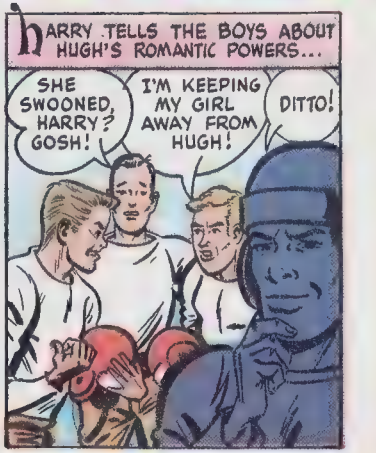


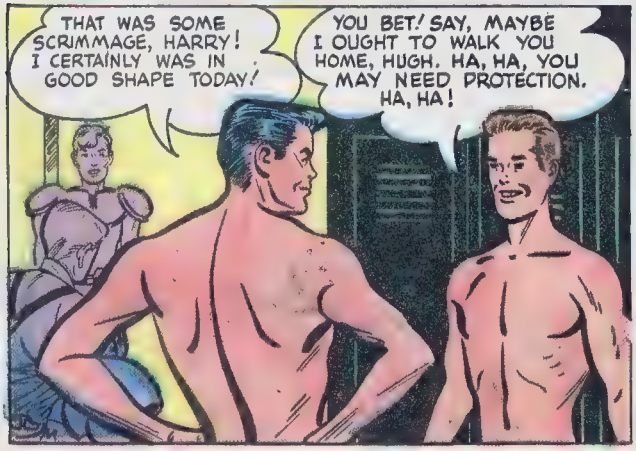

AFTER THE DOCTORS EXAMINATION...
...LET'S SEE, WHAT ELSE DID I DO TODAY...? OH, YES, THEN I PRACTICED CHEERING AND SOMERSAULTS – YOU SEE I'M CHEER LEADER FOR THE TEAM.
THAT DID IT! YOU HAVE A COLD COMING ON, JUNE. AND A SLIGHT FEVER. THE OVEREXERTION CAUSED YOU TO FAINT!

ONCE THE GIRLS ARE ALONE...
JUNE! I THOUGHT YOU FAINTED BECAUSE THAT WONDERFUL HUNK OF HUGH MATHEWS ASKED YOU TO BE HIS DATE AT THE BEACH PICNIC!
WHAT!!
I NEVER HEARD A WORD HE SAID! TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!

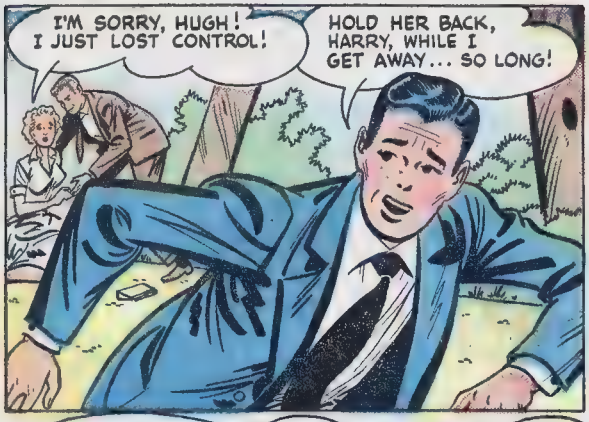
... WHEN YOU PASSED OUT WE ALL THOUGHT YOU SWOONED!
OH, DEAR, HOW AM I GOING TO FACE HIM... WELL ANYWAY I KNOW I'VE GOT A DATE FOR THE PICNIC, THAT'S A CONSOLATION!

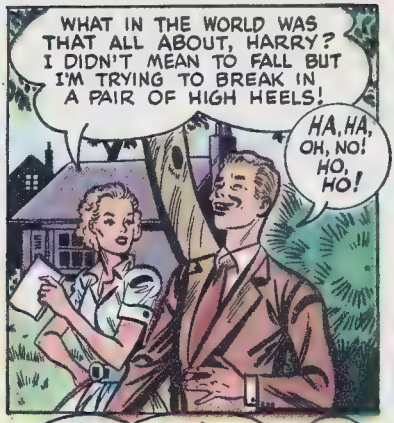
AT THE FIELD...

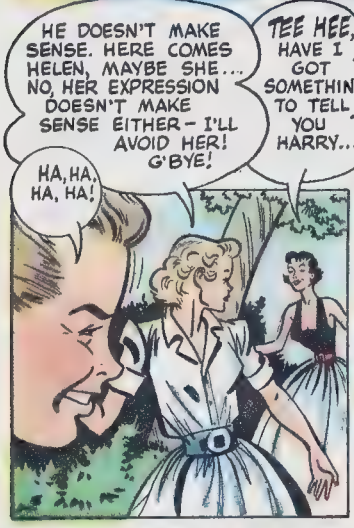

HARRY TELLS THE BOYS ABOUT HUGH'S ROMANTIC POWERS...
SHE SWOONED, HARRY? GOSH!
I'M KEEPING MY GIRL AWAY FROM HUGH!
DITTO!


THAT WAS SOME SCRIMMAGE, HARRY! I CERTAINLY WAS IN GOOD SHAPE TODAY!
YOU BET! SAY, MAYBE I OUGHT TO WALK YOU HOME, HUGH. HA, HA, YOU MAY NEED PROTECTION. HA, HA!

ON THE WAY HOME...
HEY!
HUH?

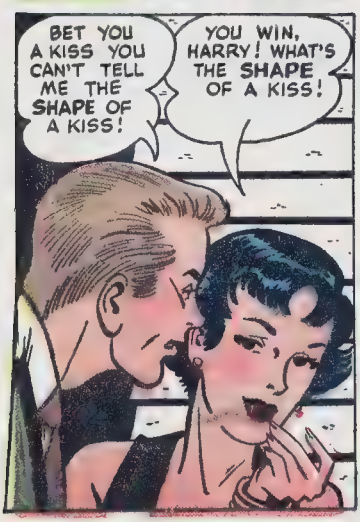

I'M SORRY, HUGH! I JUST LOST CONTROL!
HOLD HER BACK, HARRY, WHILE I GET AWAY... SO LONG!


WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS THAT ALL ABOUT, HARRY? I DIDN'T MEAN TO FALL BUT I'M TRYING TO BREAK IN A PAIR OF HIGH HEELS!
HA, HA, OH, NO! HO, HO!

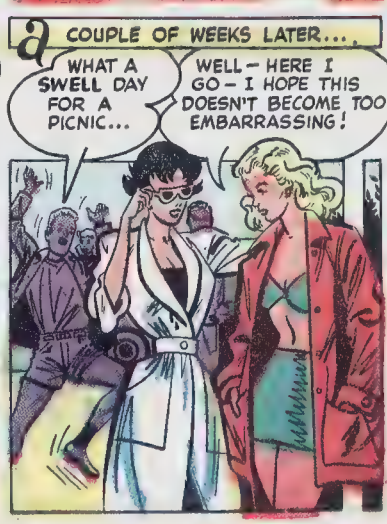

HE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. HERE COMES HELEN, MAYBE SHE... NO, HER EXPRESSION DOESN'T MAKE SENSE EITHER – I'LL AVOID HER! G'BYE!
TEE HEE, HAVE I GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU HARRY...!
HA, HA, HA, HA!

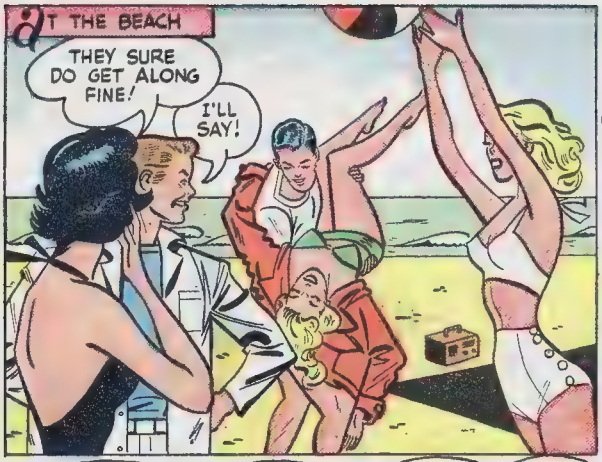
WAIT 'TIL YOU HEAR MY STORY... HA, HA, HA!
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP IT A SECRET FROM HUGH!

OKAY, HELEN, LET'S SEAL IT WITH A KISS!
NO!

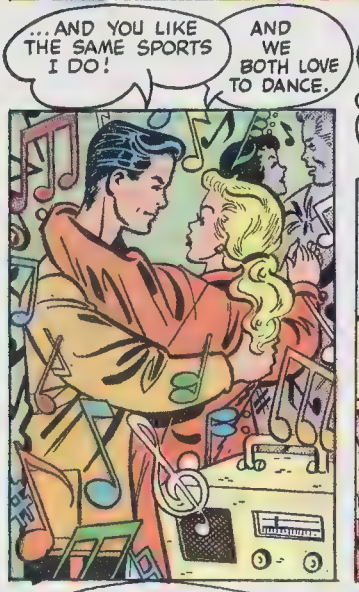

BET YOU A KISS YOU CAN'T TELL ME THE SHAPE OF A KISS!
YOU WIN, HARRY! WHAT'S THE SHAPE OF A KISS!

GIVE ME A KISS, HELEN, AND WE'LL CALL IT SQUARE!

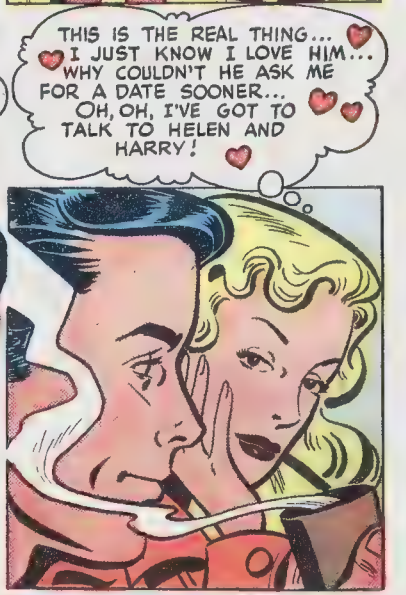

a COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER...
WHAT A SWELL DAY FOR A PICNIC...
WELL – HERE I GO – I HOPE THIS DOESN'T BECOME TOO EMBARRASSING!


AT THE BEACH
THEY SURE DO GET ALONG FINE!
I'LL SAY!

HOURS GO BY AND JUNE AND HUGH FIND MORE AND MORE TO TALK ABOUT...
...DID YOU READ THAT BOOK TOO? I LOVED IT!
SO DID I. SAY, SO FAR WE'VE ENJOYED THE SAME MOVIES AND BOOKS!

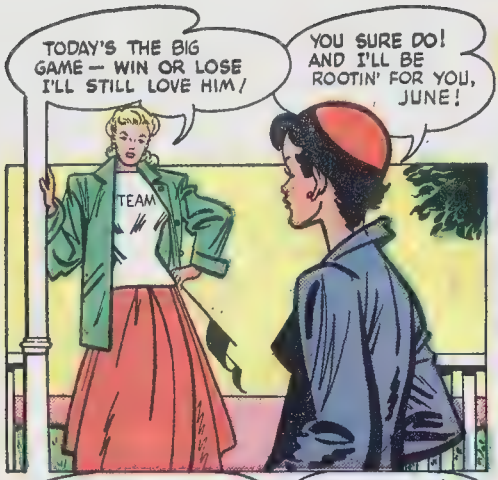

...AND YOU LIKE THE SAME SPORTS I DO!
AND WE BOTH LOVE TO DANCE.

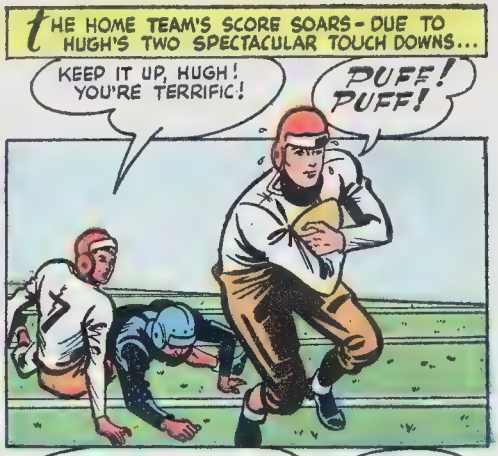
I'VE HAD MORE FUN WITH JUNE THAN ANY OTHER GIRL. I FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH HER ♥♥ I... I THINK I'M IN LOVE..♥♥!

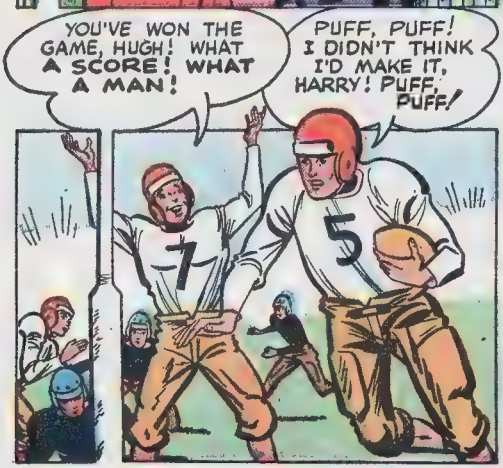

THIS IS THE REAL THING... ♥ ♥ I JUST KNOW I LOVE HIM... WHY COULDN'T HE ASK ME FOR A DATE SOONER... OH, OH, I'VE GOT TO TALK TO HELEN AND HARRY! ♥

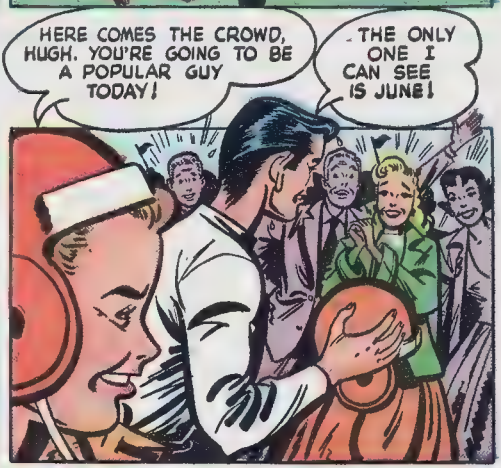
NOW LISTEN YOU TWO- I DON'T WANT YOU EMBARRASSING HUGH BY TELLING HIM WHY I FAINTED!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US. WE FORGOT IT EVER HAPPENED—DIDN'T WE—DEAR?
HUH? OH, YEAH!

THAT NIGHT...
IT SURE WAS A SWELL DAY FOR A PICNIC. I HAD FUN.
SO DID I! LET'S TRY TO HAVE AS MUCH FUN EVERY DAY—FROM NOW ON!


TODAY'S THE BIG GAME — WIN OR LOSE I'LL STILL LOVE HIM!
YOU SURE DO! AND I'LL BE ROOTIN' FOR YOU, JUNE!
TEAM


THE HOME TEAM'S SCORE SOARS - DUE TO HUGH'S TWO SPECTACULAR TOUCH DOWNS...
KEEP IT UP, HUGH! YOU'RE TERRIFIC!
PUFF! PUFF!

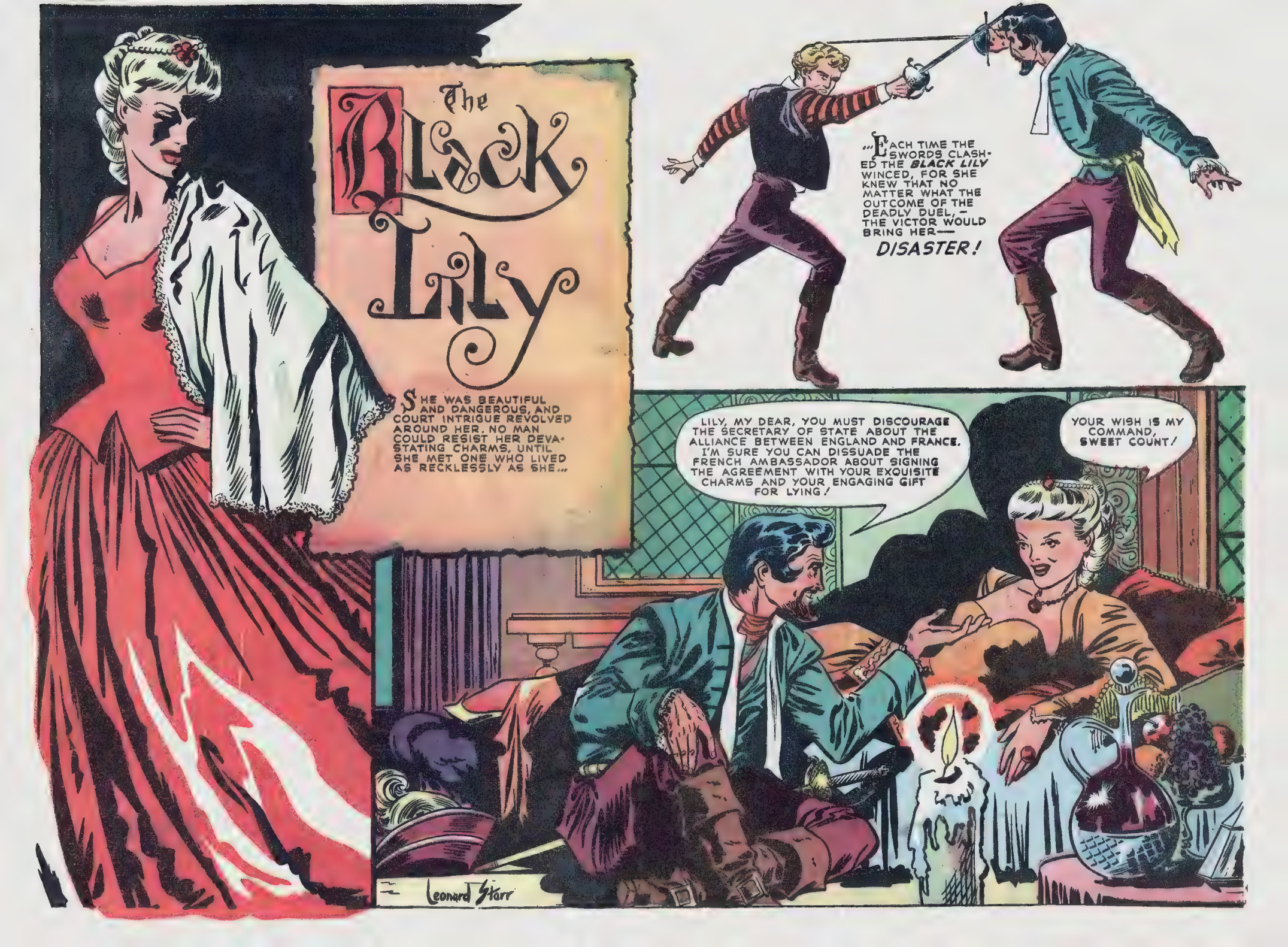

YOU'VE WON THE GAME, HUGH! WHAT A SCORE! WHAT A MAN!
PUFF, PUFF! I DIDN'T THINK I'D MAKE IT, HARRY! PUFF, PUFF!
7
5


HERE COMES THE CROWD, HUGH. YOU'RE GOING TO BE A POPULAR GUY TODAY!
THE ONLY ONE I CAN SEE IS JUNE!

YOU WERE WONDERFUL, HUGH! LET ME GIVE YOU A BIG KISS!

GOLLY, JUNE — THAT WAS... THAT WAS...
AHHHHHHHHHH!

NOW I WONDER...?? DID HUGH COLLAPSE FROM EXHAUSTION OR FROM THE EFFECT OF MY KISS...
THE END


The Black Lily
SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL AND DANGEROUS, AND COURT INTRIGUE REVOLVED AROUND HER. NO MAN COULD RESIST HER DEVASTATING CHARMS, UNTIL SHE MET ONE WHO LIVED AS RECKLESSLY AS SHE...
...EACH TIME THE SWORDS CLASHED THE BLACK LILY WINCED, FOR SHE KNEW THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTCOME OF THE DEADLY DUEL, — THE VICTOR WOULD BRING HER— DISASTER!
LILY, MY DEAR, YOU MUST DISCOURAGE THE SECRETARY OF STATE ABOUT THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE. I'M SURE YOU CAN DISSUADE THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR ABOUT SIGNING THE AGREEMENT WITH YOUR EXQUISITE CHARMS AND YOUR ENGAGING GIFT FOR LYING!
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND, SWEET COUNT!
Leonard Starr

DAYS LATER, SIR WOTTON, THE COUNT'S RIGHT-HAND MAN, BURSTS INTO ALBORADA'S CHAMBERS...

YOUR GRACE!! YOUR BLACK LILY HAS BETRAYED YOU! I OVER-HEARD IT ALL! SHE MADE HER POLITICAL VIEWS KNOWN TO THE QUEEN, THE AMBASSADOR, - EVERYONE - AND IT WAS ALL CONTRARY TO YOUR PLANS!

SHE WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT! ORDER MY GUARDS TO MURDER LILY STERLING!

LATER...

MISTRESS STERLING! YOU'RE IN GREAT DANGER! COUNT ALBORADA HAS INSTRUCTED HIS HENCHMEN TO KILL YOU!

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS, TUDOR? AND WHY WOULD THE COUNT WISH ME DEAD?

I HEARD THIS GUARD DISCUSSING IT IN THE COURTYARD. HE WANTS TO KILL YOU BECAUSE YOU TURNED AGAINST HIS PLAN DURING YOUR AUDIENCE WITH THE QUEEN.

OH?! TUDOR, TUDOR! YOU MUST HELP ME GET AWAY! I'LL PAY YOU...!

TUDOR ARRANGES FOR A COACH TO SPEED HER TO THE WATER-FRONT...

... AT THE DOCK A SHIP WILL BE WAITING, IT LEAVES WITH THE TIDE FOR HOLLAND.

THANK YOU, TUDOR!

THE BLACK LILY MUST BE TRULY FRIGHTENED TO THINK SHE COULD ELUDE US SO EASILY!

WE'LL GRAB HER WHEN SHE STEPS FROM THE COACH!

ALL RIGHT, M'LADY - COME ALONG WITH US!

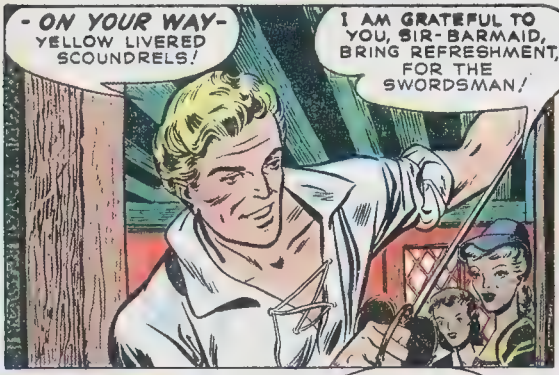
NO! GET AWAY FROM ME!

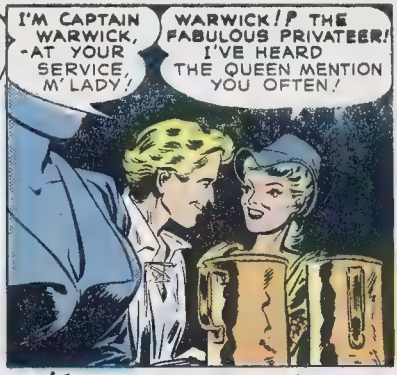
HELP!

IN ANSWER TO HER SCREAMS AN AGILE SEAMAN SWINGS DOWN FROM A SHIP'S DECK.

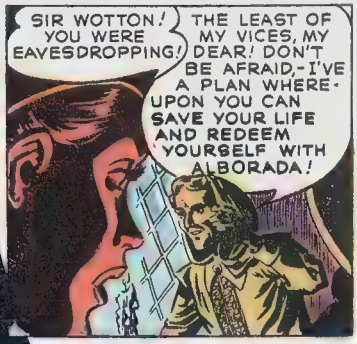
ALTHOUGH THE ODDS FORCE HIM INTO THE INN, - THE STRANGE INTRUDER'S SWORD IS TOO QUICK FOR THE ASSASSINS ...

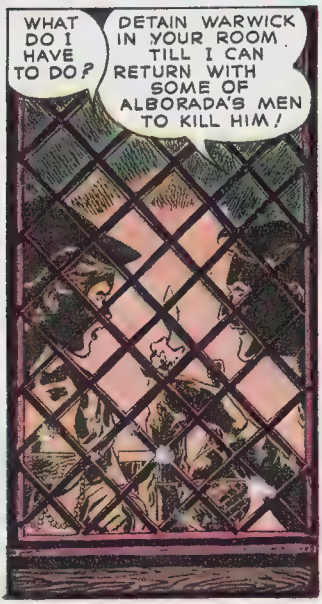
...And those who remain alive, decide to get away from the seaman's deadly sword.

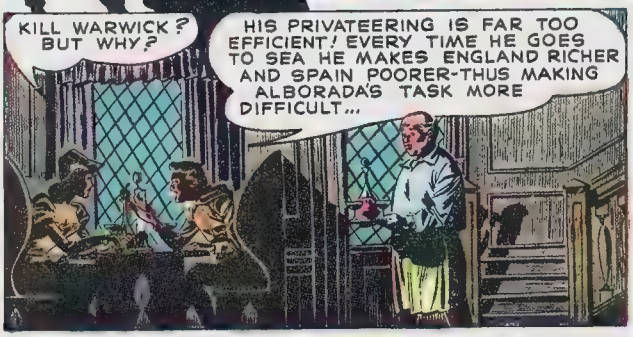




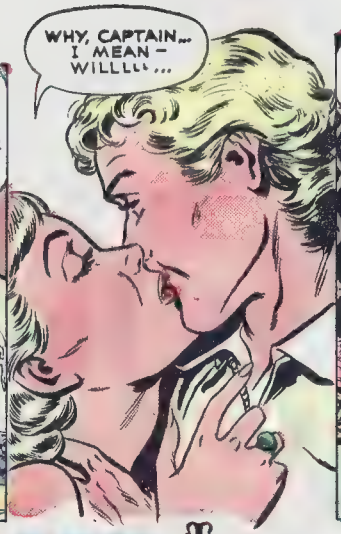
As warwick leaves lily turns... and terror leaps into her eyes!

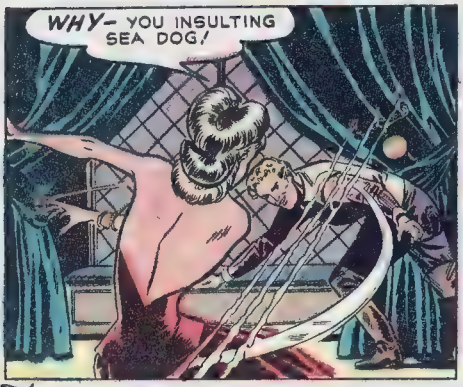




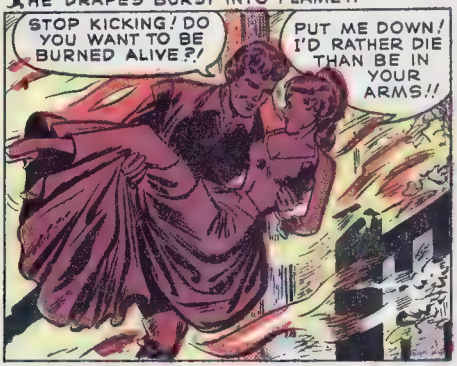


LATER THAT EVENING, CAPTAIN WARWICK ENJOYS HIS SUPPER WITH LILY...





THE DRAPES BURST INTO FLAME!!



WARWICK THROWS LILY ONTO A HORSE AND WHIPS IT INTO A FLYING GALLOP!

THE CAPTAIN STANDS SHAKING WITH LAUGHTER AS SHE RIDES OFF COMPLETLY STRIPPED OF HER POISE AND SOPHISTICATION!

THE NEXT MORNING...

...YOU SEE I HAD TO EXPRESS AN OPINION IN FAVOR OF THE ALLIANCE BECAUSE I'M SURE THE QUEEN WAS SUSPICIOUS OF ME... I HAD TO AGREE WITH HER TO REMAIN IN HER GOOD GRACES.

IT WAS A WISE MOVE, LIL! I APOLOGIZE FOR MY HASTINESS!

...BUT NOW TO GET RID OF WARWICK! THIS IS MY PLAN!

THAT AFTERNOON CAPTAIN WARWICK RECEIVES A MESSENGER...

HMMM... THE QUEEN WISHES ME TO MEET HER SECRETLY TONIGHT IN THE MAP CHAMBER!

THANK YOU, MESSENGER!

LATER THAT NIGHT... WARWICK ENTERS... AND BOWS IN THE QUEENS PRESENCE...

YOUR MAJESTY!

FOLLOW ME, CAPTAIN WARWICK! DOWN THIS PASSAGE!

AS YOU WISH, YOUR HIGHNESS... THIS MUST BE AN IMPORTANT MATTER INDEED TO BE CONDUCTED BY YOU PERSONALLY!

IT IS A MATTER OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE!

SHALL I GO DOWN FIRST AND LIGHT THE WAY...?

SUDDENLY SHE TURNS...

NO! NO, WILL! IT IS I, LILY, NOT THE QUEEN. I'M SORRY... I... I DIDN'T WANT THIS... IT'S A TRAP!

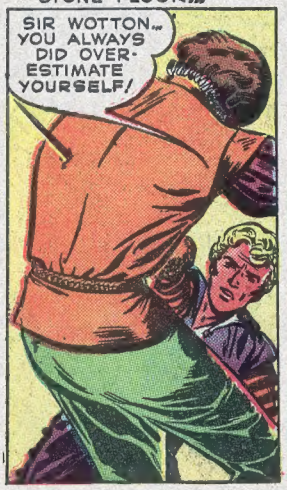
REALLY, LIL? I KNEW IT THE MOMENT YOU CALLED ME CAPTAIN WARWICK... THE QUEEN ALWAYS CALLS ME WILLIE WHEN I HAVE PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH HER!

GO NOW! PLEASE, WHILE YOU STILL HAVE TIME. COUNT ALBORADA WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT WITH HIS ASSASSINS. PLEASE, WILL, GO!... I LOVE YOU, DO YOU UNDERSTAND? I'LL MAKE EXCUSES TO THEM FOR THE FAILURE OF THIS PLAN.

I THINK I'LL STAY! I'D SOONER SHOW THEM MY SWORD THAN MY BACK!

ALBORADA AND HIS SWORDSMEN ENTER...
THERE HE IS MEN— SLAY HIM!
ONLY ONE MAN NEED HANDLE THIS, YOUR GRACE! I'LL DO IT!

SIR WOTTON, TRAITOR TO HIS COUNTRY STEPS FORWARD...
WHAT'S THIS? ONLY ONE CONTESTANT!
I'LL CUT YOU DOWN, CAPTAIN WARWICK! THE OTHERS ARE HERE ONLY TO CARRY YOU AWAY!


WOTTON DROPS TO THE STONE FLOOR...
SIR WOTTON... YOU ALWAYS DID OVER-ESTIMATE YOURSELF!

WARWICK'S SKILL PUTS FEAR INTO THE OTHER TWO SWORDSMEN AND DESPITE ALBORADA'S SAVAGE THREATS THEY REFUSE TO FIGHT.
...GET HIM I SAY! COME BACK!
WHAT ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR GRACE... IS YOUR BLADE AS DULL AND SLOW AS YOUR WIT?

FROTHING WITH RAGE THE SPANIARD DARTS AT THE CAPTAIN...
IT IS SHARP ENOUGH TO CUT YOU DOWN, CAPTAIN! SPAIN KNOWS NO FINER SWORDSMAN THAN MYSELF!
YOU'RE IN ENGLAND NOW, MY DEAR COUNT!

FILTHY PIRATE!
YOU FORGET YOUR MANNERS... THE POLITE WORD IS *PRIVATEER!*

YOU WILL SOON SWALLOW YOUR WORDS... WE SHALL SEE WHO IS MASTER OF THE SWORD...
SWORDSMANSHIP IS EASIER DISCUSSED THAN DEMONSTRATED, YOUR GRACE...

...A BIT OF INSTRUCTION, ALBORADA... KEEP YOUR ELBOW IN...

... YOU'RE A POOR PUPIL... BUT HERE IS YOUR DIPLOMA NEVERTHE-LESS!

THAT DOES IT! AND VERY CLEAN TOO, IF I DO SAY IT!

OH, WILL, I'M MISERABLE!
....ABOUT *THAT* WRETCHED GUTTER RAT?

NO, ABOUT THE QUEEN CALLING YOU WILLIE... WHEN YOU'RE ALONE WITH HER!
YOU JEALOUS LITTLE BAGGAGE... YOU KNOW YOU ARE MY ONLY QUEEN, AND TO PROVE IT, WE'LL SAIL TO THE NEW WORLD AND A NEW LIFE TOGETHER, WHERE *YOU* CAN CALL ME WILLIE ALL YOU PLEASE. WHAT TORTURES A MAN WILL SUFFER FOR SAKE OF A WOMAN!
The End

Nadine French

recommends

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